

REMARKS

The following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated February 18, 2004. Claims 1-2 are pending in this application. In the outstanding Office Action claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). No new matter has been added. Claims 1-2 are presented for consideration.

35 U.S. C. § 102(a)

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Hirai (U.S. 2003/0031469). In making this rejection the Office Action asserts that this reference teaches each element of the claimed invention. Applicants disagree and request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 1 recites in part:

“storage means having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing a compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels.”

Claim 2 recites in part:

“a storage device having a by-channel compression rate storage area storing a compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels.”

Hirai teaches compressing video and audio signals in their respective video and audio compression circuits 3,4. The compressed video and audio signals (plurality of channels) are multiplexed in multiplexing circuit 5. The multiplexed signal is stored in memory 6 to level the transfer rate of the multiplexed signal to encoding circuit 7.

Hirai, however, does not disclose that memory 6, stores a compression rate for each of the audio and video channels. Furthermore, Hirai does not disclose or show any

connection between memory 6 and either the video compression circuit 3 or audio compression circuit 4 whereby memory 6 could transfer the compression rate to either of circuits 3 or 5. Hirai also does not disclose measuring the amount of coding or recording medium used.

Therefore, memory 6 does not store a compression rate for each of the channels. Similarly, it appears that neither the video compression circuit 3 nor audio compression circuit 4 receive or use a compression rate stored in memory 6. Accordingly, the system control circuit 10 does not up date the compression rate stored in memory 6 since there is no connection between system control circuit 10 and memory 6 and because the system control circuit 10 does not monitor the amount of the recording medium used.

Accordingly, Hirai fails to teach and/or suggest the claimed invention. Specifically, this reference fails to teach and/or suggest a "storage means having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing a compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels" or "a storage device having a by-channel compression rate storage area storing a compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels." Consequently, Hirai also fails to teach and/or suggest the remaining claim elements that use or update the stored compression rate. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

Conclusion

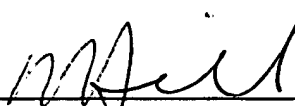
Applicant's remarks have overcome the rejection set forth in the Office Action dated February 18, 2004. Specifically, Applicant's remarks have distinguished claims 1-2 from Hirai and thus overcome the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Accordingly

claims 1-2 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the even that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing attorney docket number 107314-00009.

Respectfully submitted,



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